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**Engineered polymer-media interfaces for the long-term self-renewal of human embryonic stem cells.**

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**Public Summary:**

We have developed a synthetic polymer interface for the long-term self-renewal of human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) in defined media. We successfully cultured hESCs on hydrogel interfaces of aminopropylmethacrylamide (APMAAm) for over 20 passages in chemically-defined mTeSR1 media and demonstrated pluripotency of multiple hESC lines with immunostaining and quantitative RT-PCR studies. Results for hESC proliferation and pluripotency markers were both qualitatively and quantitatively similar to cells cultured on Matrigel-coated substrates. Mechanistically, it was resolved that bovine serum albumin (BSA) in the mTeSR1 media was critical for cell adhesion on APMAAm hydrogel interfaces. This study uniquely identified a robust long-term culture surface for the self-renewal of hESCs without the use of biologic coatings (e.g., peptides, proteins, or Matrigel) in completely chemically-defined media that employed practical culturing techniques amenable to clinical-scale cell expansion.

**Scientific Abstract:**

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